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AR-1

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

25X1D  
NSC, 1.5c

In November 1966 we jointly initiated a study, subsequently named [ ] to evaluate classified satellite photography from the standpoint of civilian agency needs. The work is now complete and the final report of the project is attached. The resource experts whom you assigned to this task have studied the material from the viewpoint of both their discipline and their knowledge of the interests of their parent agency. The attached document is their report to you on their individual findings. I think your team members are to be congratulated on the enthusiasm and dedication with which they have carried this through.

This has been a very profitable effort--as you read the investigators' reports I think you will see that there is strong evidence that the present intelligence systems can be of service to you in your current operations. Indeed, the probability of its rather immediate utility seems sufficiently high to warrant our taking two more steps to fully exploit the work that has already been done by the [ ] team. NSC, 1.5c 25X1D  
NSC, 1.5c

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25X1D NSC, 1.5c

First, we ought to establish a mechanism whereby your agencies can routinely make your needs and interests known to the intelligence community. As a specific proposal for your consideration, I suggest we continue the ☐ Steering Committee as a Standing Committee which would (1) collect and consolidate the needs that each of you might have for photography from the current systems, (2) see that these needs were made known to the intelligence community and (3) discuss procedures for handling classified photography for these purposes with the community. Your member on the steering committee could be the point of contact within your agency for the generation of uses to which the photography might be put. Mr. Helms has agreed to cooperate with such a group and to appoint an agency representative. I would propose that my office chair the committee until the activity gets well established but I would hope that we could eventually operate as an arm of a USIB committee. I would like to know your opinion on this, and if you agree, who your representative would be.

NSC, NSC, 1.5c

NSC, NSC

NSC, 1.5c

Second, as we intended when we initiated the program, I propose that each agency now evaluate the ☐ conclusions from the standpoint of its own interests and write a report on its findings. I think it is important to keep in mind that the ☐ team, because of its limited size and the short time available to it, may not have surfaced all the possible uses of this material, nor have demonstrated to your satisfaction those uses that they did identify. Thus, it may be that you

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will see additional applications or will want to initiate pilot studies to demonstrate or further define some of the uses already proposed.

Therefore, I suggest that your report emphasize the following points:

(1) the identification of additional applications; (2) the elaboration of your requirements from the standpoint of geographic coverage, frequency of coverage, etc.; and (3) the definition of "pilot" studies that you plan to undertake. I would appreciate having the results of your evaluation by 1 May. This report could then serve as your initial input to the activities of the Standing Committee.

Donald F. Hornig  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Science and Technology

Enclosure

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